

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

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TEN MONTANA ARTISTS WIN THE MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL'S
2013 ARTIST'S INNOVATION AWARD

The Montana Arts Council is pleased to announce ten Montana artists as winners of the 2013 Artist's Innovation Award. The winners are: Brooke Atherton of Billings; Jean Albus of Bridger; Christine Joy of Bozeman; and Theo Ellsworth, Mark Gibbons, Karen Kaufmann, Natalie Peeterse, Tarn Ream, Erin Saldin and Shalene Valenzuela from Missoula.

The Artist's Innovation Award of \$3,000 is made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Winning artists who receive this cash award must also convey their artistry to other Montanans during the course of the upcoming year.

As a clay artist, ceramicist Shalene Valenzuela is the recipient of the Jessie Wilber and Frances Senska Individual Artist Award, established by a private gift to the arts council from Stacy Hamm and Sage Walden.

Review panels comprised of experts in the fields of visual arts, performing arts and literary arts convened in early December in Helena to select the winners. This honor rewards Montana artists who demonstrate innovation in their work as well as originality and dedication in their creative pursuits. The Montana Arts Council established this award program in order to foster environments where the innovation and creativity of artists are valued and celebrated.